

UPTON-ON-SEVERN
Rural Sanitary District.

The Medical Officer of Health's
ANNUAL REPORT
For the Year 1920.

Upton-on-Severn ;

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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
Upton-on-Severn
Rural Sanitary District,
FOR THE YEAR 1920.

*TO THE RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE
UPTON-ON-SEVERN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1920, my first since my appointment as your Medical Officer of Health.

As my duties commenced on April 1st I am indebted to Dr. Cowley for reports and statistics for the first quarter of the year.

My report is arranged on the plan indicated by the Ministry of Health in a memorandum received

in April, 1921, at least, in so far as it applies to a Rural Sanitary District.

I wish to testify to the valuable assistance and co-operation I have received from your Surveyor and Inspector, Mr. Price. During the year we have been over the greater part of the district together, and I have been able to see and appreciate his excellent work.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE DAVIDSON.

The Rural Sanitary District of Upton-on-Severn has an area (land and inland water) of 50,035 acres, and is divided into 22 parishes. It lies entirely in the valley of the Severn and, with the exception of the parishes of Kempsey, Severn Stoke, Hill Croome, Croome d'Abitôt and Ripple, lies on the right side of the river. On the West side the district is bounded by the Malvern range of hills. The surface is slightly undulating and is almost entirely agricultural in character. The few small workshops that exist have, in the nature of their work, no influences specially injurious to the health of the community. As an agricultural district it is peculiar to the greater part of agricultural England in the large number of Hop Yards. This means a considerable increase of population during the hop-picking season, with a risk of imported infectious disease.

Population.—The estimated population for 1920, as supplied by the Registrar-General, is 11,747. It is upon this figure that the vital statistics of the year are based.

VITAL STATISTICS

Deaths.—The total deaths registered in the district were 191. Of these 48 occurred in the County Mental Hospital and did not belong to the district, and in addition 13 others died in the district, but did not belong to it. This leaves 130 registered

in, and belonging to, the district. To this has to be added 5 deaths outside the district, mostly in institutions and belonging to the district, giving 135 as the net figure. The Registrar-General gives 138, but I think my figures are correct.

Death Rate.—On a population of 11,747 this gives a death rate of 11·4 per 1,000 population, a favourable comparison with 1919, which was 13·3. The death rate for England and Wales is given as 12·4. The rates for the previous 10 years, 1910-19, are :

1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
11·8	13·3	12·0	12·0	13·0	15·4	15·4	16·7	17·0	13·3

Births.—The total births registered were 243—116 males and 127 females, of whom 4 males and 7 females were illegitimate. This gives a birth rate of 20·6 per 1,000. That for England and Wales is given as 25·4. The rates for the 10 years, 1910-1919, are :

1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
20·0	22·6	19·0	17·0	17·7	17·1	15·9	14·7	14·5	14·2

Infantile Mortality and Rate.—The deaths registered of children under 1 year numbered 7. This is equal to a rate of 28·8 per 1,000 births. That for England and Wales is 80·0. The causes of deaths under 1 year were :

Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	4
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1
Cleft Palate and Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Congenital Syphilis	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
TOTAL	...	...	...	7

The rates for the years 1910-19 are :

1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
65·4	44·7	54·9	70·1	56·1	87·3	35·8	55·5	60·0	65·0

Senile Mortality.—Twenty-eight persons were registered as having died of senile decay.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases.—There were 2 deaths from enteric fever, but both were inmates of the Asylum and did not belong to the district. Excluding tuberculosis, there were no other deaths from notifiable diseases; but one death from whooping cough, equal to a death rate 0·07 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.—There were 10 deaths from tuberculosis, all pulmonary, equal to a death rate per 1,000

population of .85, or between 7 and 8 per cent. of total deaths. In addition there were 9 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis in the Asylum. The average death rate from tuberculoses for the previous years is .9 per 1,000 population.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATHS (R.G.)

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Males.	Females.
1.	Enteric	...	...	...	...
2.	Small-pox	...	...	...	...
3.	Measles	...	...	...	...
4.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
6.	Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...
7.	Influenza	...	...	...	...
8.	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...
9.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	4	4
10.	Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...
11.	Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	2	1
12.	Cancer, Malignant Diseases	...	...	7	10
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	1
14.	Meningitis	...	...	...	...
15.	Organic Heart Disease	...	...	14	11
16.	Bronchitis	...	...	2	1
17.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	2	2
18.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...
19.	Diarrhœa, etc., under 2 years	...	...	...	...
20.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...
21.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1
21A.	Alcoholism	...	...	...	...
22.	Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	1	1
23.	Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...
24.	Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1
25.	Congenital Debility, etc.	...	...	3	1
26.	Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...	5	1
27.	Suicide	...	...	2	...
28.	Other defined diseases	...	...	33	25
29.	Causes undefined or unknown	...	...	...	1

STATISTICS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS.

Scarlet Fever	...	11	
Diphtheria	...	12	
Puerperal Fever	...	1	
Pneumonia	...	1 and	1 in Asylum
Enteric Fever	...	4	„ 22 „
TOTAL	...	—	—
		38	23

SCARLET FEVER.

Of the 11 cases notified 10 went to the Isolation Hospital and 1 was isolated at home. The cases were of a mild type, and all recovered.

Locality.	Period and No. of Cases.		Total
Upton-on-Severn	...May (1), December (1)	...	... 2
Powick	...September (1)	...	... 1
Welland	...May (2), June (1), Aug. (1), Oct. (1)	...	... 5
Castlemorton	...March (1), April (1)	...	... 2
Isolation Hospital	...January (1) a nurse	...	... 1

Incidence—Jan. (1), March (1), April (1), May (3), June } 11
(1), August (1), Sept (1), October (1), December (1) }

Previous Years.—1914, 47; 1915, 11, 1916, 8; 1917, 6;
1918, 35; 1919, 22.

DIPHTHERIA.

Of the 12 cases notified 11 went to the Isolation Hospital and 1 was isolated at home. All recovered.

Locality.	Period and No. of Cases.		Total
Holdfast	...January (1)	...	... 1
Upton-on-Severn	...April (2), June (1), July (1), August (1), October (1)	...	... 6
Longdon	...July (1)	...	... 1
Little Malvern	...August (1)	...	... 1
Hanley Castle	...September (1)	...	... 1
Kempsey	...October (2)	...	... 2

Incidence—January (1), April (2), June (1), July (2), } 12
August (2), September (1), October (3) ... }

Previous Years.—1914, 26; 1915, 4; 1916, 2; 1917, 7;
1918, 25; 1919, 35.

MEASLES.

Ceased to be notified at the end of 1919.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

One case at Barnards Green. Treated at home and recovered. I made a special visit to the nurse in attendance, Nurse MacLeod, and found her in every way satisfactory. I sent in a special report on the case to the County Medical Officer of Health and the Central Midwives' Board.

ERYSIPELAS.

All treated at home. All recovered.

PNEUMONIA.

One case in district, and one case in the Asylum. No comment necessary.

ENTERIC FEVER.

An epidemic occurred at the Asylum in the last quarter of the year, when 22 cases were treated and isolated there. Two of the cases died. Other 4 cases occurred — 3 in the Asylum Lane (all removed to the Worcester Infirmary and recovered), and 1 at the Asylum Home Farm (removed to Malvern and recovered). I have already made two special reports on this serious epidemic. The consensus of opinion of the various investigators, including myself, was that the water supply was the origin of the epidemic. I pointed out in my special reports the sewage pollution of Carey's Brook above the Asylum intake, but so far the pollution still goes on. Several schemes for a new water supply have been put forward, but so far nothing has been done. At present the water is still being boiled and inoculation carried out.

Previous Years.— 1909, 2; 1910, 1; 1911, 0; 1912, 4; 1913, 0; 1914, 0; 1915, 2; 1916, 2; 1917, 5; 1918, 4; 1919, 1.

Tuberculosis.—The notifications received under the T.B. regulations, 1912, were :

Form A — 16, of which 13 were pulmonary and 3 others.

„ B — 4 (School Children by S.M.O.) all lungs.

„ C.— 8 (7 to Knightwick Sanatorium, 1 to Hayley Green) all lungs.

„ D.— 5 (All discharged from Knightwick).

In addition 7 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified from the Asylum.

Form A. in previous years :—1913, 22 ; 1914, 18 ; 1915, 16 ; 1916, 20 ; 1917, 18 ; 1918, 18 ; 1919, 21.

The Isolation Hospital.—As already shown all the cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, with the exception of one of each, were treated here. The Hospital consists of two wards, each with six beds.

Bacteriological and Chemical Work—This is done in the County Laboratory, Shirehall, Worcester, and full opportunity is taken of it for the examination of throat swabs and sputa, and for the analysis of water, etc.

School Closures.—Only one school was closed during the year, that at Castlemorton for three weeks, from April 12th, on account of measles.

Water supply.—The water supply of the district is mostly from wells, most of them shallow and very liable to pollution. In a few instances a different supply is available.

I.—The Asylum is supplied from Carey's Brook, which is most unsatisfactory.

II.—Powick Village has a good supply from a spring.

III.—Mauresfield has a supply of its own from Cowleigh.

IV.—Upper Guarlford has been given, during the year, a good and plentiful supply from Malvern. The scheme for a new supply to Upton is still in abeyance.

Ponds and Streams.—Pollution is known to take place at several places of Carey's Brook.

Scavenging.—No systematic scavenging is done in the district. A scheme is needed for the town of Upton.

Bye-laws and Regulations.—The byelaws and regulations of your Sanitary Authority of which I append a list, one only fairly observed.

I.—Bye-laws in Hop Yards.

II.—Bye-laws on New Houses.

III.—Bye-laws on Slaughter Houses.

IV.—Bye-laws for the prevention of nuisances in Upton parish.

V.—Bye-laws for the cleaning of footpaths and pavements.

VI.—Regulations for Dairies and Cowsheds.

Milk Supply.—This during the year has been sufficient in quantity, but as regards purity a stricter supervision is necessary. The regulations of 1885 are not strictly carried out.

Hospitals and Institutions in the district.

- I.—County Mental Hospital at Powick. The total population of this hospital is usually about 1 140, of whom 199 are staff. Forty per cent. of this number sleeping out.
 - II.—The Isolation Hospital. An observation ward in connection with this would be an advantage.
 - III.—Tuberculosis Dispensary in Upton-on-Severn town on the first Friday of every month at 3 p.m.
 - IV.—Upton Union Workhouse.
 - V.—Small-pox Hospital at Welland not in use.
- In addition there is St. Agnes' Home for girls at Guarlford, and the Boys' Home (Waifs and Strays) at Hanley Swan.

Venereal Clinic.—The nearest clinic for the district is Worcester Infirmary, Castle Street, Worcester. Wednesday for females, and Saturdays for males.

Housing.—During the year sites have been purchased, plans passed, and building proceeding in the following parishes.

<i>Locality.</i>	<i>No. of Houses in course of building in each.</i>		
Upton-on-Severn Town and District	42
Powick Parish	20
Hanley Castle	16
Welland	12
Ripple	12
Kempsey	6
Earl's Croome	4
Hill Croome	4
Total			116

None of the Houses has so far been completed. The need for the full number of New Houses as per Survey is as great or greater than ever.

GEORGE DAVIDSON,

August 1st, 1921.

Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

*of the Sanitary Work completed in the year ending
31st December, 1921.*

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

No. of houses disinfected after notifiable disease	...	45
Lots of bedding, clothing, &c., disinfected or destroyed	1333	

HOUSES (HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC. ACT)—

No. of houses erected (bungalows)	...	...	2
„ of houses inspected...	...	...	18
„ represented as unfit for habitation	...	...	1
„ of closing orders made by the Local Authority	...	...	1
„ of closing orders that became operative	...	...	1
„ of houses with defects remedied with closing orders			4

HOUSE-DRAINS—

No. laid or relaid	...	...	...	49
„ of house drains tested	...	...	...	49

WATER CLOSETS—

No. of additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	36
„ repaired, ventilated and supplied with water	15

WATER SUPPLY—

No. of samples of water sent for analysis	11
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SLAUGHTER HOUSES—

No. registered	9
„ licensed	{...	1
„ cleansed and repaired	one new drain		

FACORIES AND WORKSHOPS—

No. under inspection	30
„ certified for lime-washing by Inspector				...	3

PURVEYORS OF MILK—

No. of	64
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DAIRIES—

No. registered	64
At what intervals is each inspected			...	uncertain	

LODGING HOUSES—

No. on register	1
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FOOD—

No. of seizures as unfit for consumption	4
Amount destroyed as unfit for consumption	395 lbs. of meat		

Eleven samples of water were submitted to County Analyst.
Six were reported as unfit.

(Signed) M. D. PRICE,

Sanitary Inspector.

27th June, 1921.